Some of the suggestions and strategies contained in the report have already been reflected in the policies and regulations of the Government. The Government has also taken steps in the areas of clean technology, vehicular pollution, reduction of green house gases, etc. Various activities have been taken up under the World Bank assisted "Environmental Management Capacity Building Project" to make the process of environmental clearance more effective.

Corruption in forest management

1075. SHRI URKHAO GWAR BRAHMA: Will the Minsiter of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that thousands of indigenous people of Assam have become homeless due to the ongoing eviction operation, in the name of clearance of forest land;

(b) whether it is a fact the large scale department corruption in management of forests is responsible for the present degradation of forest properties in Assam; and

(c) if so, whether Government would institute any Commission to enquire into the departmetnal corruption?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No. Sir. The Government of Assam has reported that only encroachers in Reserved Forests have been evicted.

(b) No such information has been reported.

(c) Does not arise.

Protection of rare species in Manipur

1076. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minsiter of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rare brow-antlered deer Sangai and several varieties of birds available in Manipur are on the verge of extinction; and

(b) if so, the action taken to protect the rare species from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The population of Sangai in Keibul Lumjao National

Park is on the rise and there is no specific report regarding decline of avifauna in the Park. Details of financial assistance provided by the Central Government to this National Park during the last three years are as follows:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Fund Released
1999-2000	24.44
2000-2001	31.784
2001-2002	15.00

Waste forest land for public use

1077. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many requests from the State Government are pending in his Ministry to release the waste forest land for the public use;

(b) whether it is a fact that many such applications from Karnataka Government are pending in his Ministry for consideration; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposals and the action taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There is no such term as waste forest land and therefore the question of any request regarding release of such land for public use does not arise.

However, under the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, any non-forestry use of the forest land requires prior permission of the Central Government. More than 4600 proposals have been submitted by various State Governments including Karnataka from 1988 to 30.06.2002 under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for forestry clearnce. A brief abstract of this information indicating their present status State-wise is enclosed.